

# Indicators for the Great Lakes - The SOLEC Set

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## Biographical Sketch of Authors

Paul Bertram and Paul Horvatin work within the Monitoring, Indicators and Reporting Branch of the U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office. Nancy Stadler-Salt and Harvey Shear work within the Office of the Science Advisor of Environment Canada - Ontario Region. Together, the authors are the principal organizers of the biennial, binational State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conferences, and they have been influential in the development and selection of a suite of indicators for Great Lakes ecosystem components. Their efforts to engage a number of authors for individual indicator reports lead to an overall assessment of the Great Lakes ecosystem and to the recent U.S. and Canadian report, *State of the Great Lakes 2001*.

## Abstract

The biennial State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference (SOLEC) was established to provide the governments of Canada and the United States a venue to assess and report on the condition of the Great Lakes based on accepted indicators. The information is intended to strengthen decision-making concerning management of the Great Lakes. Indicators necessary and sufficient to assess the Great Lakes ecosystem components were identified and introduced in 1998 for nearshore and open waters, coastal wetlands, nearshore terrestrial, land use, human health, stewardship, and “unbounded.” Assessments based on a subset of the indicators were presented in 2000 and published in 2001. Data supporting the indicators currently comes from existing monitoring programs of multiple agencies and organizations, but additional monitoring will be required to fully implement the SOLEC suite. Strong linkages exist between SOLEC indicators and those identified for the Lakewide Management Plans.